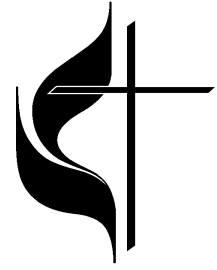


# THE

# FIRST WORD



The Weekly Newsletter for Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church, Newton, North Carolina  
Phone (828) 464-8422 Fax Number (828) 464-8423

[www.fumcnewtonnc.org](http://www.fumcnewtonnc.org)

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A very special thing happened a few years ago on an American Airlines flight bound from Atlanta to Chicago. The flight included twelve U.S. soldiers making their way home from a tour of duty in Iraq. When the first of the soldiers boarded the plane, a businessman stood up, shook the soldier's hand and said, "What's your seat number, soldier?" "It's 23 B sir," said the soldier. "No, son," said the businessman, "that's my seat. Here's your seat in first class!"

The businessman handed the surprised young soldier his first-class boarding pass and took the soldier's 23B boarding pass. He pointed to the young soldier to take the first-class seat and then the businessman walked back and sat down in seat 23B. The other passengers in first class were so touched by the businessman's gesture, that they all did the same thing. All twelve of the soldiers ended up flying in first class.

Before long, word spread throughout the plane about what had happened and suddenly, the flight from Atlanta to Chicago became different. It took on a happy, fun, party-like atmosphere.

The soldiers were touched and humbled by all that had happened. They began to say "thank you" to everyone around them. But it didn't take long for their expressions of gratitude to be drowned out by other passengers on the flight. The passengers spent the majority of the flight saying "thank you" and "welcome home" to those soldiers. At the end of the trip one of the flight attendants said, "If nothing else, those young soldiers got a great homecoming."

The passengers on that flight needed to say thank you to those who had served the nation on their behalf. Like those passengers, many of us feel the urge to express thanks when we find ourselves in the presence of men and women who have sacrificed and faced difficult challenges for the sake of some great good.

As Christians we believe that expressing thanks is an essential part of healthy living. The apostle Paul wrote that we are "to give thanks in all circumstances." And there is so much for which we can offer our gratitude. We can be grateful for the ordinary things like the next breath we are about to inhale or the next meal we are going to have. There are also extraordinary events like the birth of a child or a marriage celebration when ordinary expressions of gratitude don't seem to fully convey the intense feelings of thanksgiving we experience.

We acknowledge our gratitude not because God somehow needs our flattering, but because in expressing it we affirm that life is a gift that we receive – a gift that we receive from the One from whom all blessings flow!

One of the blessings that I have been particularly grateful for recently is the love and support that Willis and I have received from some many of you. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord here in the heart of Catwaba County.

Your commitment and dedication to this congregation overwhelm me. When I walk through our facility and I see all of the faces of people who are participating in the life of this church, I am deeply humbled. I am humbled by your servant spirit and generous financial giving that make this all possible. Isn't it a wonderful feeling to know that your commitment is making it possible for persons to hear and experience the message of Jesus Christ?

In one of the Broadway musicals there is a song that says something like this: "This is my moment ... I'm going to do great things." In many, many ways I believe that this is a defining moment in the life of this great congregation. And I'm so eager to see all of the great things that God is going to do in and through you and me in the years to come.

See you Sunday, David

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY** are extended to Sam Foster and family following the death of his step-father, Charles Davis, on Friday, April 23.

Also, prayers and sympathy are extended to Beth Isenhour and family following the death of her mother, Doris Gordon, on Tuesday, April 27. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 2:00 pm at Catawba Memorial Park.

## AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

May 2, 2010

**THE SHARED WORD: Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene**  
**"Playing The Cards You're Dealt"**

Matthew 23:27-30

## HOSPITAL REPORT:

Corinna Driscoll is recovering at home following surgery last week.

**MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN**

Oops! We forgot. This is your **one time** opportunity to honor or remember your mother on Mother's Day. Deadline for inclusion is Wednesday, May 5. You may also contact Debbie Rights via email at rrights@charter.net and send in your money later.

**MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN**  
One dollar donation per name

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CHERUB CHOIR  
and CHILDREN'S CHIMES**

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the children's music groups will present melody and song for the 11:00 Worship Service. These groups practice each week as a part of our Kids For Christ program, Wednesday afternoons. I am so very proud of our children for all of their hard work and for sharing their talents with us. They are such a blessing to me! The Mother/Child Luncheon will follow this service in the Fellowship Hall, so bring Grandma and plan to stay for a wonderful meal and fun entertainment! If your child is involved but unable to attend May 2<sup>nd</sup>, please let me know so that other arrangements can be made. Thank you! Kristy Smith 465-6160

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, April 25, 2010**

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.	64	11:00 a.m.	120
Sunday School	157	9:00 a.m. Praise Service	73
Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,595.75	
	Renovation Fund	25.00	
		\$8,620.75	
Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00		
Budget Needs as of 4/25/10	\$186,371.00		
Contributions Received as of 4/25/10	156,801.00		
Under Budget for Year	-\$29,570.00		

**ATTENTION!!**

The church has been given two plots at Catawba Memorial Park located in the fountain area. It has been decided to sell these plots by submitting a silent bid to the church office. The Finance Committee will then decide whether to accept the bids.

All bids should be turned into the office by Friday, May 21st.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**\* May 2-8, 2010 \***

SUN.	7:30	United Methodist Men
	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	12:30	Mother/Child Luncheon
	6:30	Bible Study
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	10:00	UMW Group II
	2:00	UMW Group I
	7:00	UMW Group III
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	6:30	Griefshare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Youth Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	9:00	Preschool

**MAC AND CHEESE SUNDAY**

WOW! I am so thrilled by your response to bring in food for our collection for Community Impact Day in June, a day of service benefitting residents in need in Catawba County. So far, we've collected peanut butter, tuna, and oatmeal. This Sunday is MAC AND CHEESE Sunday. Please bring one or more 7.25 oz. boxes of macaroni and cheese mix (Kraft blue box, or generic.) You may place your items in the grocery cart located beside the Gomedela Room (side entrance of church.) A very special thanks to Lori Sigmon and others who helped with the parent's night out at the church last weekend. Lori had a great idea to "charge" donated food items in exchange for child care for the night. Thanks, Lori, for the bags of food donated! Thanks also to Anne Lemons who is sorting and organizing donated food items. Thanks to all for giving! Susan Reinhardt, Missions/Outreach, 381-9841

**GRADUATION INFORMATION IS NEEDED**

If you or a member of your family will be graduating from high school or college, please give this information to the church office. We will honor all graduates during worship services on Sunday, June 6th.

## ECCCM GOLF TOURNAMENT

You are invited to join a team of golfers from First United Methodist Church at the June 3rd ECCCM Golf Tournament to be held at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Maiden. The cost will be \$25 per golfer and the 4 person team will be put together on a first come basis. The 1:00 PM shotgun start will benefit ECCCM and their wonderful ministry in Catawba County. Lunch, sponsored by Bennett's, will be served from 11:30 am until play begins. Call the church office to join this team.

Other classes and groups are invited to sponsor a hole. Contact Ken Moss for more information for a sponsorship.

### PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by the Missions Committee

Friday, May 21, 6:00-9:00 pm

For children 4 years through 5th grade

Donation of the following items is requested:

1 lb. bag of rice	1 lb. bag of dry beans
canned tuna	saltine crackers
dried potato flakes	macaroni & cheese
canister of oatmeal	peanut butter

Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline is May 19th.

For additional information, please contact Lori Sigmon at 465-1081 or the church office at 464-8422.

### YOUTH YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 AM-1:00 PM

### RECENT VISITORS:

Dawn Price, Devin, Carrie & Chatham Donley

### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### Pray For:

Taylor Dunlop  
Heather Clontz  
Brandon Cole  
Russell Boggs  
Charles Davis  
Kay Jettinghoff  
Marion Mebane  
Rita McDaniel  
Kathy Link  
Pat & Gina Humphries  
Dale Ramseur  
Corinna Driscoll

#### Requested By:

Dawn Martin  
Michelle White  
Paul Campbell  
Wadine Smith  
Sonja Foster  
Ann Cook  
Jean Childs  
Paul Campbell  
Christine Lowman  
Susan Reinhardt  
Family  
Friends

**Out-of-Country Military**—Scott Beal, Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz.

**In-Country Military**—Bobby Benson, Andy Blanton, Stan Josey, Corey Lail, Laird Lambeth, Brad McRee, Tai Orange, Kyle L. Sigmon, Ryan Windham, President Obama & Leaders.

## MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

### Men's Bible Class—Radio Fund:

Frances Raymer & Helen Raymer

Marshall & June Sherrill

### Youth Fund:

Doug Benfield

Leida C. Stewart



### WOMEN OF FAITH NOVEMBER 12-13, 2010

Join thousands of sisters in the faith as we take a group from First United Methodist Church to the Women of Faith Concert at the Greensboro Coliseum. Hear dynamic speakers such as Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg and Anita Renfroe along with musical guests, Steven Curtis Chapman, Sandi Patti and Mandissa. The event begins Friday at 10:00am and ends Saturday at 4:00pm. Total cost is \$125 which includes the ticket, one night at the Doubletree Hotel and 2 boxed lunches. To reserve your spot, please contact JoAnne Hewins at 464-8500, or email Willis Greene at willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com. **Deadline is May 12.** Visit [www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com) for more details. Get away with your girlfriends for a spiritually refreshing Women of Faith weekend!

### DAY CAMP @ CAMP CAROLWOOD

Just a reminder that all paperwork and money is due **May 15** to register your child (rising first-fourth graders) for Day Camp. The week of Camp is July 12-16. If you have any questions, please call Amy Cable (294-4811). We will have a parent's meeting to arrange the van, snacks, and parent volunteers schedule for the week of Camp at the end of June.

### FELLOWSHIP DINNER RESERVATIONS

Wednesday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: United Methodist Women

Menu: Wine & Herb Chicken, Green Beans,  
Baked Apples, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** No Youth—MOTHER'S DAY

**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** Regular Youth—

4:00-5:30 PM Middle School; 5:00-6:30 PM Senior High

**Friday, May 21—Sunday, May 23**

Sr. High: Virginia Creeper; Middle School Girls: Beach

**NO REGULAR YOUTH**

**Sunday, May 30**—Regular Youth

Make plans to attend all these meetings and events. More information for the Senior High, Virginia Creeper will be in the newsletter.

The youth have their Bible Study assignment for the next few weeks. Ask them if they have done it. Any question call Peggy!!!

**MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT AT THE BEACH**

Girls currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and their mothers are invited to a weekend retreat at Oak Island **May 21-23**. We will be watching a series of DVD's entitled "In Search of a Princess" and having a LOT OF FUN!

**ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-May 2, 2010**

*"Pentecost"*

4 Years: **Music**                      Grades K-1: **Computer**

Grade 2-3: **Storytelling**      Grades 4-5: **Science**

**Teachers: May 2-June 20, 2010**

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer      Art: Susan Reinhardt

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Cindy Boger/Terra Butler

Music: Debbie Bandy

Movie: Rhonda Pawlik      Computer: Gina & Scott King

Science: Michelle White/Amy White

**YOUTH AND PARENTS:**

Our Annual Yard Sale is this weekend. We will be working on Friday night, April 30. **PLEASE BE HERE NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM. WE WILL FINISH AT 8:00 PM. SATURDAY MORNING BE AT CHURCH NO LATER THAN 6:00 AM AND YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN WE ARE FINISHED!!!!** This is very important. Because you are willing to come and help, the cost will be lower for our trips. This also helps provide scholarships for those in need. We need PARENTS and Youth to work. It is so much FUN!!!! We will not have youth on Sunday, May 2. Sunday is the Mother/Child Banquet. Sign up to come and be a part of this great event.